

# Bulletin July 1983

President: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF □ Vice President: Joe Locascio, K5KT  
 Treasurer: Don Moses, W6UY □ Secretary: Jan Perkins, N6AW  
 Directors: Jim Stevenson, KM6B; Don Bostrom, N6IC; Jim Rafferty, N6RJ; Bob Cobb, W6CN (membership); Mike Hudgens, W6YQ (bulletin)

**Next meeting:** Thursday, July 14 at 7:30 PM sharp in the DWP Cafeteria, 111 Hope Street.  
 Roger Mace, W6RW, holder of the first W6-W7 160-meter DXCC, will talk about what it takes—lots of late nights, lots of QRN.

## FI8—fact or fantasy?

By Jan Perkins, N6AW

Worked by many, confirmed by few, French Indochina was on the countries list until the end of 1950. Consisting of what now is known as Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, that portion of the world has remained rare.

In the 1930s, Rene Lebon was active from Hanoi. Signing FI8AC and using a half-wave zepp, he worked the world. With his crystal-controlled 50 watts, he made contact with 37 zones and 43 states. Unfortunately, his cards would not count for postwar DXCC.

After the war, Paul Ferrand was attached to the French embassy in Saigon. An avid amateur, he was determined to get on the air. Letters were dispatched to the president of REF, the minister of Defense, the minister of the French Colonies, and to local authorities, but favorable word was never received.

Not one to become discouraged, Paul put his homebrew rig on 20 CW and commenced operation as FI8ZZ. His 15-watt signal was worked far and wide, but QSLs were sparse. On the fourth card he issued, he noted: *FI8ZZ is therefore a clandestine station and makes all transmissions at his own risk....*

In July 1948, Paul was visited by Willard Hunton, W6ODD, who spent a month in Saigon and signed W6ODD/FI8. Using push-pull 807s running 40 watts and a vertical zepp, his big signal on 20 CW kept everyone scrambling. He sent QSLs for all his QSOs when he returned to the states. Everything was CW. Of the handful of cards issued, no phone QSLs were ever to come from FI8.

In 1951, French Indochina was placed on the banned country list. FI8AB and another operator, Jean-Marie Legeay, FI8AZ, were active from Saigon from 1952-54 but contacts did not count for DXCC. In 1952, F.E. Handy wrote a concerned DXer: *Sorry about FI8AB and any other FI8s, but to work them is a sure way to invite*

QRA R. LEBON P.O. BOX 15 HANOI  
 K.E.F. FRENCH INDOCHINA A.R.R.L.

# FI8AC

TO Radio *W1FH* TKS-FOR-QSO TKS QSL-OM

QSO v 6VFR on 2/7/1948 at 1254 GMT. Ur 14 mc cw tone Sigs RST 579x

# W6ODD/FI8

SAIGON-INDOCHINE FRANCAISE Zone 26

VFO, Final P.P. 807s 40 watts Antenna Vertical Zepp Receiver HQ 129X  
 Remarks: *on aip am, by 10 in aip am under. operate a hundred or so*  
 Home QTH: P.O. Box 173, Stinson Beach, California  
 Pse/Tnx QSL via A.R.R.L. 73 WILLARD HUNTON

an FCC citation.

With the partitioning of FI8 to XU, XV and XW, the book on French Indochina was closed.

(Thanks to K6TX, W6FR, W1FH, W1CW, W6AM, the ARRL communications manager, and the chef de Section du REF pour L'Indochine.)

## DX news

**1A0KM** showed last weekend for SSB activity and said there will be an encore performance this weekend on CW.

**XU** in August seems to be a possibility. VE3FRA's *DX Report* says **JH1DPB** claims that a group of JAs has a license to operate August 10-31 with the call **XU1SS**.

At the beginning of 1984, you'll be hearing prefixes like **UH1** and **UB4**. This is the work of **Walt**, **UV3GM**, who for the past couple of years has written 500-700 pages on the state of amateur radio in the USSR. His efforts have led to new amateur rules and a new approach to the call sign system.

**XV: CO2OM** is said to be trying for an August Vietnam operation, and two more

Cubans are reported in Vietnam attempting to get permission as well.

**VU7: VU2GI** and **VU2UGI** have filed requests for an **Andaman** operation (**LIDXB**).

**Zone 2 expedition** July 17-23, CW only, by **VE2EDK**, **VE2EDL** and **VE2DW**, working 25 KHz up from the bottom of all bands.

**OJ0** by **PA0GAM** July 22 to August 16.

**7O: J28AZ** says he has license for late August or early September SSB-only operation. **WA2MOE** and **PY2BE** are said to have seen it and are scouting around for gear (**DXR**).

**5R8AL** on 15 SSB 17-18z. QSL WA4VDE.

Look for **TT8AD** Wednesdays at 2100z around 21060.

**TZ8DC** July 14 for two weeks by **DJ2BW**. Cards to DL8DC.

**BY1PK** reported on 14100 at 01z.

**ZL/K: Ron**, **ZL1AMO**, along with others, is still trying for a Kermadec operation.

**UU2L** on 20 SSB and CW...**OH2BAW/OH0** on 14202 at 0635...**OH0BA** 14027 at 0655 with cards to **OH2BAZ...1Z9A** on 14027 at 1450; via **JA8BMK...HV3SJ** 21040 at 1550; via **I0DUD...ZB2EO** 14021 2145...**T77C** on 21025 at 2005 (**M1C**)...**ZL4PO/C** 3503 1030 with cards to **ZL4KI...TR8DR** 21020 1615 (NCDXC W6TI Bulletin).



# Making megapoints in the CQWW

## 47 helpful hints from K7RI

Set a goal. Do so *before* the contest. Keep summary sheet with the goal in front of you throughout the contest and monitor your progress toward that goal—working harder, if necessary, to reach that goal.

Make a list of DXpeditions that will be on. List their calls and zone number and country for quick reference. Keep the list on hand so you can monitor it and not miss the easy DXpeditions.

Always use UTC; and pencil log entries are much easier to erase than those logged in ink.

Be sure to log calls correctly...especially JAs with their multitude of different prefixes.

Op aids: Dup/Zone Check-Off Sheets for each band; be sure to keep them up to date during the contest (but don't bother to dupe JAs until after the contest—and don't bother duping Ws at all, as they are zero points anyway). Use these aids continuously during the contest to know what you are missing—and find and work it!

Scoring QSO points: North America (zones 1-8 inclusive) are 2 points; all other zones (9-40 inclusive) are 3 points; USA and duplicate DX contacts are zero points.

Be able to know at a glance at the dupe/zone sheets what multipliers are missing on each band.

Before the contest, use available propagation information to get an idea of what countries/zones will be likely to come in, and at what time and beam headings.

Get a zone map showing what countries are in what zones so you can tell at a glance what countries are in the missing zone you haven't yet worked.

Install a foot switch for less fatigue, better timing of calls.

Be sure not to miss zones 3, 4 and 5 on any band you operate. All are USA and most are easy to work.

Logging: Simplify it. Give everyone the same report. Enter it only once at top and bottom of page, indicating with an arrow that all reports are the same. Fill in the time only every 5 minutes or so, and fill in by estimate after the contest. Also, don't write full 4 digits of time for every QSO. Only enter the hour once at the beginning of the hour and

enter the minutes only for the rest of that hour.

Don't miss the easy multipliers.

Put up a quarter-wave sloper on the Caribbean (and Japan too).

Use two alarm clocks: one next to the bed and one across the room so you won't turn it off and go back to sleep, missing openings.

After the contest, review strange prefixes and calls with someone else; also, look for possible multipliers you worked and logged but overlooked entering for credit as a new multiplier.

Watch out for the "helpful tip" about the rare one up the band. This occurs most often when you have control of a most productive frequency—and your benefactor wants it!

Rule of thumb: work highest open band at any time, but be sure to rotate to other bands at least every hour (preferably, more often) so as not to miss an opening elsewhere.

Avoid working W stations after you have W and the 3 zones on each band. Remember, all QSOs with USA count zero, and unless you need him, or he you, it is counter-productive.

160-meter schedules occur on the hour starting as early as 10 or 11 PM. The best time is our sunrise, and the 3 AM time period. Don't transmit in the DX window 1825-1830.

Be aware of trade-off of working more QSOs vs more multipliers late in the contest. It is more productive to take longer to work a new multiplier sometimes than to work a handful of JAs. Rough rule: total QSOs divided by total multipliers at that time tells how many QSOs you must work to equal in score the productivity of one new multiplier.

Develop your own European pileups; the same is true for JA and Africa, if possible.

When acknowledging a call from a JA (or anyone) repeat back to him the *identical phonetics* he used when calling you. Be sure to log correctly. Don't guess.

When running JAs, if you get only a part of his call, but are sure of that part, repeat *ONLY* the part you are positive of. JAs are excellent ops and only the station with the part of the call you ask for will call you back. Then you will get all of his call and proceed to the next one.

If the JA pileup is too deep, and it is difficult to make out any calls, try reducing your rf gain as to hear only stronger stations. If that doesn't work, call for districts only, or certain prefixes only.

Work the really rare station who is not in the contest when you hear him. Don't go away and hope to find him later.

Interrupt your runs at least every 30-45 minutes and search for new multipliers on that band.

Don't bloody yourself in pileups the first day, or even early Saturday. The really big contesters and DXpeditions will be there the entire contest—and are very easy to work on Sunday.

If there is a really deep pileup on a common country or zone, which you need for a multiplier, look around the band. You likely will find another who has just come on and there is no pileup yet.

Don't fight propagation. When the West Coast, or whatever part of the country other than us seems to get through every time and a few or no other East Coast or locals are making it, go do something else more productive. Propagation *will* change and maybe an hour or so later will favor 1-land. You'll get the same guy on the same frequency, first call. Make a note of his call and frequency so you can find him later. Check back periodically to see how propagation is changing.

Judge your pileup breaking ability against comparable locals. Or, if someone local who has a much stronger signal than you isn't making it, chances are you won't either. Let him bloody himself; go elsewhere and come back later.

Try hard to keep your frequency when productively running Europeans or whomever. Often someone else will try to take your frequency away from you. Don't just give up. He wants it because it is working for you, and he thinks he may have similar success. There was the story of the W6 who was running JAs. A W5 came on frequency and tried to take it away from him. The W6 turned his beam down the 5's throat and pretended to continue running JAs. The 5 could hear nothing but the 6 and left the frequency. Such a deal!

A high percentage of JAs on Sunday will be dupes. Also, Sunday here is Monday in Japan, and most of the JAs are at work. Perhaps a better choice is to look for multipliers. You have to make this determination yourself at the time by evaluating the tradeoff between additional QSOs vs additional multipliers.

Pileups that are double multipliers—new zone, new country—are *twice as valuable* as single multipliers. You can well afford to spend additional time—twice as much, in fact—on such a station.

Bands which you have worked the least afford the greatest opportunity to work double multipliers.

Be sure to work at least the "cheap ones" on 40, 75, 160; i.e., W, VE, zones 3, 4 and 5.

Ten KHz from that loud KP4 with the huge pileup is a weak KP4 with no pileup. Work him instead.

Get your 40/80/160 multipliers the first night. DX ops often sleep part of the second



night; hence, we miss them.

Be patient on the low bands. YV4TI is nice copy on 40 when the contest begins but not easy to work, if at all, until perhaps as late as midnight or later.

Become familiar with the bands in the weeks before the contest: who is on what frequencies when.

JAs on 75 are at 3793-3803, rarely anymore working split at 3535-95 listening up to 3800 plus.

Unless conditions are outstanding, JAs on 40/75 will peak and go down several times a night. If you have trouble, come back later. It may be much better only 30 minutes later.

Average stations: Stay on a clear frequency. If your pileup disappears, move to another frequency and start over. Someone you can't hear has probably taken your frequency. This may happen often but you must accept it and keep moving. At the beginning of the contest a lot of DX stations are calling CQ. Work them. Good rates are available doing this during the early hours of the contest. When the big stations move to other bands, take advantage of their absence and make hay of the band they left.

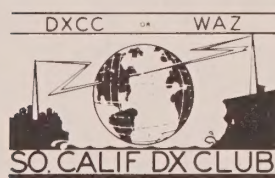
Morning long path on 40/80 is tough. If you are working JAs on those bands, forget LP.

80 CW: lack of activity. 40 SSB: tough to get through. 75 SSB: lots of activity in Extra Class band and some in Advanced Class band. 40 CW: lots of activity in Extra and some in Advanced.

From 9 PM to 3 AM it is sometime possible to work Africa beaming long path over ZL/VK up through JA. The path changes all evening. This occurs both on 15 and 20.

Finally, have fun!

*(N6AW disagrees with K7RI on several points: Jan dupes JAs as he goes along. He*



## Bulletin

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California DX Club.

### Editor

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Send material for this bulletin to Mike Hudgens, W6YQ, 10103 Lynrose, Temple City, CA 91780.

*finds the foot switch very fatiguing, although experienced operators can utilize it to good advantage. The time, Jan feels, should be filled in more frequently than five minutes, though with only two digits. In the case of deep JA pileups, he calls for a common letter at random—Echo, Alpha—which usually yields a complete call. -Ed)*

(Thanks to NCCCJug)

## Letters

Editor—

May I please thank all the gang who accepted that I had something to say and allowed me to say it.

**Jim Smith, VK9NS/VK0JS**

Editor—

Thanks to all the members of SCDXC for your great support. I was able to give the SB200, which you donated, a good test on my recent stay at Chatham Island.

**Ron Wright, ZL1AMO**

Editor—

A great thanks to the SCDXC for including me on the Honorary Members list. Nice to be part of your excellent group of DXers.

**Franz Langer, DJ9ZB**

Editor—

I regret to report the passing of John Fogg, K6AO. He died of a heart attack in late May. He is survived by his XYL and a brother in St. Louis, Mo.

John was a big DXer with the Northern Calif. DX Club and was on the ARRL Honor Roll. John has been in and out of Hemet the last few years and on the road with his motor home. His XYL plans to go up north to live.

**K.C. Jones, W6OB**

## Club notes

The August program—a presentation on Caribbean operations, especially FM0, by **Al, K6YRA, Brad, W6TJI, and Carl, KJ6F.**

Let's face it: Visalia 1983 is going to be a tough act for SCDXC to follow, and we must start work now. Some have already volunteered for various tasks, but more are needed: a publicity chairman, a treasurer; a Chamber of Commerce liaison and helpers on the main program; persons to handle registration, prizes, accommodations and the ladies program. Step forward. A little of your time and thought are essential.

**Paul Lukas, N6DMV**, is our newest member. Recent new members include **Karl Stoy, Jr., W6OES**, and **Leland "Champ" Champion, N6ETK**. All are full members.

**Skip Bolnick, KJ6Y**, has upgraded to full member. **Steve Titus**, formerly N6CYX, is now **KW6W**.

**It's old news now but, in case you didn't know, Glen Tillack, W6KZL**, has been awarded the first WAZ mobile. He did it all on 20-meter phone.

For the record, here are the CQ awards handed out this year at Visalia.

World All Band-W2AB Memorial-K4FW Award (CW) to **Martti Laine, CT3BZ**; World Contest Expedition-Yankee Clipper Contest Club (CW) to **Ville Hiilesman (OH2MM), SU1AA**; World All Band-Bill Leonard, W2SKE Award (phone) to **Dick Norton (N6AA), 9Y4VT**; USA Single Band (21 MHz)-SCDXC Award (phone) to **Larry Pace, N7DD**; USA Single Band (21 MHz)-Northern Illinois DX Association Award (CW) to **Steve Biddle, K6EWL**.

## Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by Neil Kaltman, K6SMF, SCDXC president. Each member introduced himself and announced any late-breaking DX news.

Bill, W6RT, noted that FB8WI is often on 40 CW at 13z, LP, and BY8AA is on 15 CW at 02z. Jan, N6AW, relayed from Don Search, W3AZD, that the BY1PK cross-mode QSOs would count for mixed DXCC.

Neil updated the club repeater situation. It is still being worked on. The new location will be Mt. Lukens, about 10 miles west of Mt. Wilson.

Bob, W6CN, reminded us that the new club directory will be published in July. Any changes or updates should be given to him this month.

K6SMF announced that the All Asia Contest was one week away (June 18-19), and that contest handouts with rules and check-sheets were available from the secretary.

A moment of silence was observed for W6TOG who recently became a silent key.

A show of hands indicated that about 30 people would be interested in a club outing to a Dodger game. The secretary will contact the Dodger organization for detailed information.

HV2VO has asked the club for a linear amp. The motion carried, and a \$250 budget was allotted for a 1200-watt PEP linear. N6AW will undertake procuring and shipping the unit.

Our ARRL representative Jay Holladay, W6EJJ, spoke briefly. The LAO Olympic Committee will have amateur stations at three Olympic villages. Volunteer operators will be needed, especially those who speak French. The operating period will be July 14-August 12, 1984. Amateur radio will also be used for the out-of-stadium events (marathon, yachting, etc.). In addition, Jay reminded everyone that the deadline for comments on the codeless license was June 28.

A 10-minute break was taken, and at 8:45 Dr. Dave Morgan, K6DDO, gave a 45-minute talk on award and certificate hunting. Dave has 24 years of experience in these matters.

Our surprise second speaker, P29BR, gave an excellent slide presentation on the terrain and operation conditions in Papua, New Guinea. He is teaching a group of aspiring novices in an attempt to expand amateur activity there. If you have anything

Continued on page 4



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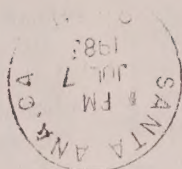
W6GD

RIO LINDA, CA

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- JAY O'BRIEN -

Michael Hudgens, W6YQ  
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Temple City, CA 91780



## Minutes of the last meeting

Continued from page 3

you could donate for homebrew projects, contact the secretary and he will arrange shipment.

The meeting closed after the following prizes were awarded:

N6DMV, a \$50 gift certificate from Henry Radio; N6CGB, an MFJ104 dual-display clock; W6JQT, MFJ 721 audio filter; K3BA, ARRL Handbook; K3BA, Radio Propagation Handbook; N6ETK, ARRL Antenna Handbook; WD6EUT, Solid State Basics; K3BA, Hints & Kinks; K3BA and W6CN, Coax Seal; W6EA, ARRL Antenna Anthology; K6HMA, ARRL Electronics Data Book; W6AM, ARRL RFI Book; K6HMA, Learning to Work with ICs; W6NNV, 200 Meters and Down.

## Classified

CUSTOMIZED QSLs by W6BA, \$19.75 for 1000 plus shipping. No standard forms. We try to print what you want. Black ink on color 110-pound stock. Write for samples. Bill Adams, W6BA; Star Route 2, 29 Palms, CA 92277.

WANTED: 75S3 rcvr with double xtal deck and 200-Hz filter; round emblem preferred. Don, W6AM (213) 424-3459 or 377-4120.

SIGNAL ONE CX-7A with "B" pwr supply; very late model, mint condx with three CW filters and RIT mod: \$650. Roger, W6RW (213) 654-3714.

CLEAN COLLINS 30L1 wanted by Dan Davitt, N6CGB. (213) 390-3537, days; (213) 322-3324, nights.

BENCHER paddle, black base: \$30; TenTec 670 keyer (not iambic): \$20; Skytec CW speaker (acoustic filter): \$10; Turner 360 mike (good w/TS-120, 130): \$10. Mike, W6YQ (213) 445-0700.

## State of the bands

The longest day of the year has just passed and the shortest openings of the year are upon us.

Ten still shows signs of life, but you have to be at the right place at the right time. Europeans are sometimes heard to the east when the band first opens, and then the path moves around to the north (16z). South Africa and South America at 19-22z are somewhat reliable. Asia after 23z and VK/ZL around 01z are occasional possibilities. Sporadic LP Africa is heard about 06z.

Fifteen-meter European openings after 15z are frequent, but don't expect big signals. Watch for Central Asia openings at our sunset (04z). Africa is sometimes heard until 03z SP, if anyone happens to be on.

Twenty to Europe at 05z holds up well, sometimes with quite an Arctic flutter. Mid-east stations peak SP at our sunset, but the East Coast has the propagation advantage. JAs boom in all night, and SE Asia appears after sunrise, about 14z. LP Africa 14-16z is fairly reliable.

Forty LP to Africa and Zone 39 opens frequently around 14z. SE Asia peaks about the same time, and JAs about 10z. Africa—SP at our sunset and LP at our sunrise—still shows activity.

Eighty meters has signals coming up out of the noise about sunrise, plus or minus half an hour. Mostly Asia and the South Pacific have been heard.

—N6AW

## Activity reports

**K6YRA:** FR0FLO 14196 1337, JT1AO 14205 14. JT1BG 14205 1500 (June 1); KC6IN 14203 1310, 4X6H. 21303 1826, CN8MK 21303 1853 (June 3); OX5RM 14245 0331, UA0DAG-Obi. 111 14159 1407, UK2AAX 21255 1507 (June 5); LX1RD 21255 1516, YB6HS 21255 1527 (June 6); C21RK 14173 1333, FP0SM 14213 1419 (June 11); FB8WH 14180 1338; 4K1GDW 14171 1346 (June 12); OH0AM 14226 0042 (June 13); UK5OAA 14219 0337 (June 17); D44BC 14212 0026 (June 19); ISUDB/ID8 21296 2206, VP2KBJ 21285 2211 (June 20).

**W6BWG:** C21BD 14176 1447, DU7RLC 14205 1452, YB0ARA 14212 1454, 5H3DM 21291 1835 PY1EXM/PY0T 14217 2326 (May 25); 9V1VP 21295 1819 (May 28); YB5AK 21296 1740 (May 30); 1Z9B 14224 1503 (June 3); BY1PK 21037 0218, TO5RV/FC 14197 0330 (June 8); VK9NS 14219 0611 (June 11); 5Z4PR 14204 0304 (June 22).

(Deadline for next month: July 29)

## Contest calendar

July 9-10 .....	Radiosport
July 16-17 .....	SEANET CW
Aug 13-14 .....	WAE CW
Aug 13-14 .....	SEANET Phone
Aug 20-21 .....	SARTG RTTY
Aug 27-28 .....	All Asian CW
Sept 10-11 .....	WAE Phone
Oct 29-30 .....	CQWW Phone
Nov 12-13 .....	WAE RTTY
Nov 26-27 .....	CQWW CW

—W1WY